This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-24   (Cancelled.)

25.   (Currently Amended) A client for a software development system having a plurality of service providers, ~~said~~ the service providers providing development services, the client comprising:

means for receiving commands from a user for executing development operations;

an instance of an application programming interface for communicating with other similar instances of the application programming interface ~~compatible interfaces~~ of ~~all~~ the plurality of software development service providers; and

~~an~~ a software interface to a keyword processing subsystem, the ~~said~~ keyword processing subsystem comprising a plurality of expanders for processing different sets of keywords and a keyword broker for selecting among the expanders, whereby the client can access resources of the software development service providers for development services identified using keywords.

26.   (Original) The client of claim 25 further including means for accessing and processing a plurality of enumerators representing service providers available to the system.

27.   (Original) The client of claim 25 further comprising an interface to a merge subsystem.

28.   (Original) The client of claim 27 where the merge subsystem comprises:

a plurality of preprocessors for receiving and modifying an input stream representing a plurality of input development documents;

a merge engine for producing an output merge document from the input documents.

29.   (Original) The client of claim 28 where the merge subsystem further comprises a merge broker for selecting one of the preprocessors.

30.   (Original) The client of claim 28 where the merge subsystem further includes a plurality of postprocessors for processing the output merge document.

31-32   (Cancelled)

33.   (Original) The client of claim 25 where at least some of the service providers also communicate with a version store for storing and retrieving development documents.

34-62   (Cancelled)

63.   (Currently Amended) A method for expanding keywords as part of developing software in a ~~programmed~~ digital computer to identify a software development provider resource associated with the expanded keywords, the method comprising:

receiving a request for keyword expansion in a development document, wherein expansion of a keyword permits a search of software development provider resources which perform software development functions;

receiving a parameter specifying one of a plurality of keyword domains, each domain associated with one of the software development provider resources;

selecting one of a plurality of keyword expanders in response to the parameter, wherein keyword expanders are software components for processing keywords; and

expanding keywords in the document in the selected expander, wherein a software developer provider resource that performs a software development function can be identified with the expanded keywords.

64.   (Original) The method of claim 63 further comprising:

determining that keyword expansion is required;

selecting a generic keyword expander rather than any of the plurality of keyword expanders;

expanding keywords in the document in the generic expander.

65.   (Original) The method of claim 64 where the generic expander expands the keywords in accordance with the keyword-domain parameter.

66.   (Currently Amended) A medium bearing representations of instructions and data for causing a suitably programmed computer to perform the method comprising:

receiving a request for keyword expansion in a development document, wherein expansion of a keyword permits a search of software development provider resources which perform software development functions;

receiving a parameter specifying one of a plurality of keyword domains, each domain associated with one of the software development provider resources;

selecting one of a plurality of keyword-expansion service providers in response to the parameter, wherein keyword expansion comprises software components for processing keywords; and

expanding keywords in the document in the selected service provider.